

Exiles

She told the paparezzi
of David in the Porfumo.
They ate on the terrace.
Orange skins on the canal festered.
When a rat passed
she never stopped talking
just said oh there's a
rat and knocked ashes
from her candy cigarette.

Ready or Not

Last tabs I said last
tabs.
A game I played
with Death.

The white desk
leaned in the open window.
Near the elbow-leaning
wall the toad stool
on the damp loam
blinks.

Outside
moves the accordion
to ask the river
that geese form
one upside down
what air asks
of screen.

Last tabs.

-- Ellen Tifft

Elmira, New York

Nocturne for Another Night

Voluptuous Evangeline,
who sports an auburn wig,
tells me, with a twisted smile,
it never rains but it bores.